

# Co-Teaching Initiative



## Mary Beck Elementary is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Mary Beck Elementary School, serving 499 students grades K-6 centrally located in the heart of Elkhart, IN.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** Mary Beck's students are 51% Hispanic, 25% African-American, 18% White, and 4% Multi-Racial. Approximately 42% of our students are ELL. All of our ELL students are Spanish-speaking.

**OUR TEACHERS** Mary Beck's academic faculty consists of 29 grade-level teachers, 3 certified Special Area teachers (i.e. PE, Art, & Music), 4.5 Interventionists, 4 Special Education teachers, and 2 ELL teachers.

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** The Co-Teaching initiative gives us the chance to attain the goal of providing the much needed additional support and direct instruction that our non-proficient and proficient students really need. It gives all of our students the opportunity to obtain the maximum academic growth without leaving anyone behind. Upon entering a Co-Teaching classroom one will definitely see several approaches actively being implemented. The most prevalent ones would be One Teach, One Support; Alternative Teaching (Differentiated Teaching); and Station Teaching. With this Co-Teaching initiative our students are receiving individual help in a timely manner, students have the benefit of working in small groups, fewer discipline problems occur because students are actively engaged in active, hands-on learning, teachers are able to meet the personal needs of students and cover more material in a shorter period of time.

**OUR STEPS** The students that are involved are both of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. We have a total of 67 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade with 2 Highly Qualified Teachers in each classroom. Our teachers attended a Co-Teaching Professional Development where they worked at how to effectively implement successful Co-Teaching. The teachers have a common prep so that they may conduct their preplanning together.

### IN OUR OWN WORDS

"Co-Teaching is being flexible, inclusive, and considerate. Collaboration leads to direction which leads to instruction, then you collaborate some more" ---Angel Hernandez, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

"Co-teaching is an enormous benefit to the students in our classroom. It allows for student needs, both educational and emotional, to be addressed in a much quicker fashion than in the traditional classroom. The quicker response time also helps to decrease behavior concerns with less student down time." ---Suzanne Holcomb, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

For more information about our school or corporation, email: JeNeva D. Adams, Principal, [jadams@elkhart.k12.in.us](mailto:jadams@elkhart.k12.in.us) or visit our website: <http://elkhart.k12.in.us/>